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18 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Latin America Division, DO

25X1 FROM:


Executive Assistant to the DCI

SUBJECT: Letter from Leo Cherne

1. The DCI received a letter last week from Leo Cherne, member of PFIAB, covering a wide range of issues.

2. One of the issues is the reopening of negotiations on Cuba's political prisoners and whether that should be tied to the return of Mariel undesireables.

3. The paragraph from Cherne's letter is attached. Where do the negotiations now stand?

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Attachment:
As stated



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-- Finally, having read in the New York Times that under the auspices or guidance of the NSC, negotiations are going to be reopened with the object of activating Castro's once expressed willingness to release his political prisoners for resettlement in the United States. It is, in my opinion, of the highest importance that this be accomplished whether or not under the condition that they be exchanged for the Cuban criminals, deviants, etc., who they imposed upon us during the Mariel flow. We, of course, wish to unload these individuals who we cannot safely absorb. But that desire should not lead us to spite ourselves by foregoing the massive benefit which would flow from Cuba's release of its political prisoners for resettlement in the United States.